

**THE OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (DIDCOT GARDEN TOWN HIGHWAYS
INFRASTRUCTURE – A4130 IMPROVEMENT (MILTON GATE TO COLLETT
ROUNDAABOUT), A4197 DIDCOT TO CULHAM LINK ROAD, AND A415 CLIFTON
HAMPDEN BYPASS) COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER 2022**

**THE OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (DIDCOT TO CULHAM THAMES
BRIDGE) SCHEME 2022**

**THE OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (DIDCOT GARDEN TOWN HIGHWAYS
INFRASTRUCTURE – A4130 IMPROVEMENT (MILTON GATE TO COLLETT
ROUNDAABOUT), A4197 DIDCOT TO CULHAM LINK ROAD, AND A415 CLIFTON
HAMPDEN BYPASS) (SIDE ROADS) ORDER 2022**

**THE CALLED-IN PLANNING APPLICATION BY OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY
COUNCIL FOR THE DUALLING OF THE A4130 CARRIAGEWAY,
CONSTRUCTION OF THE DIDCOT SCIENCE BRIDGE, ROAD BRIDGE OVER
THE APPLEFORD RAILWAY SIDINGS AND ROAD BRIDGE OVER THE RIVER
THAMES, AND ASSOCIATED WORKS BETWEEN THE A34 MILTON
INTERCHANGE AND THE B4015 NORTH OF CLIFTON HAMPDEN,
OXFORDSHIRE (APPLICATION NO: R3.0138/21)**

PLANNING INSPECTORATE REFERENCE:

APP/U3100/V/23/3326625 and NATTRAN/SE/HAO/286 (DPI/U3100/23/12)

Rebuttal proof of evidence of

JOHN PATRICK DISLEY

(Local Transport & Connectivity Plan)

1 SCOPE OF EVIDENCE

- 1.1 This Rebuttal Proof of Evidence has been prepared regarding matters raised by Mr Roger Williams in relation to the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan, specifically relating to:
 - 1.1.1 The Scheme's status as part of an Integrated Transport Plan for the Didcot area
 - 1.1.2 The Scheme's alleged conflict with car trip reduction policies set out in LTP4 (CD G.5) and LTCP (CD G.4)
 - 1.1.3 The status of the Didcot Area Travel Plan
- 1.2 The purpose of this rebuttal evidence is to present my opinion as to the validity of concerns raised, and to clarify, for the area where the Scheme is located, the relationship between the current Local Transport and Connectivity Plan and LTP4.

2 An Integrated Transport Plan / Area Travel Plan for Didcot

2.1 Mr Williams has raised three issues in his evidence, referenced below, which this rebuttal proof responds to, as follows:

2.1.1 Section 2.2, which contends that the Scheme is not a component of Integrated Transport Plan

2.1.2 Section 2.3, which contends that the Scheme conflicts with National and Local Car Trip Reduction policies

2.1.3 Section 4.1, which raises the issue of the forthcoming Didcot Area Travel Plan

2.2 My responses to the points he has raised are as follows:

2.2.1 In relation to Mr Williams's section 2.2, my main proof of evidence makes clear that the Scheme was developed as part of the LTP4 Science Vale Transport Strategy, an integrated transport strategy for the area which includes the Scheme. The policies which underpin this strategy have been taken forward into the LTCP (CD G.4) as the current transport plan for this area, as set out in my main proof of evidence, paragraphs 2.48 to 2.50 in particular. The policies outlined in the table at paragraph 2.50 of my main proof of evidence remain, therefore, the Council's adopted transport plan/strategy for this area, until such time as they are replaced, a point which I return to in paragraph 2.2.5.

2.2.2 Mr Williams's point in his section 2.3 is covered in paragraphs 2.11 to 2.13 of my evidence, in particular:

(a) Paragraph 2.12, where I explain that *"It must be borne in mind that these targets are for the LTCP as a whole, rather than targets that all of its strategies, schemes and measures are required or committed to meet."*; and

(b) Paragraph 2.13 where I explain that *"Further and in any event, the Scheme will contribute to LTCP car trip reduction and modal shift targets through the provision of dedicated infrastructure for non-car modes of travel"*

2.2.3 Along with paragraphs 2.14 and 2.15 of my evidence, which summarises how the scheme provides for non-car modes, this demonstrates that the Scheme does not conflict with either national or local car trip reduction policies.

2.2.4 LTCP Policy 52 on Local Connectivity, and its supporting text covering Area Transport Strategies (CD G.4, pages 131-132), set out the Council's approach to producing updated Area Travel Strategies (now referred to as Area Travel Plans), including the one for the Didcot Area. This is summarised in paragraphs 2.51 and 2.52 of my main proof of evidence.

2.2.5 As regards Mr Williams's section 4.1, the Didcot Area Travel Plan is currently under development, but has no formal status. The Plan will clearly need to reflect the outcome of the current application for the Scheme and so its contents and timing are currently uncertain. Any future Didcot Area Travel Plan would also be subject to consultation and a formal decision by the County Council (for example to adopt the Area Travel Plan for inclusion as part of the LTCP). The Science Vale Area Strategy remains current policy for this area until this happens, at which time it would be superseded.

3 STATEMENT OF TRUTH AND DECLARATION

- 3.1 I confirm that, insofar, as the facts stated in my rebuttal evidence are within my own knowledge, I have made clear what they are and I believe them to be true and that the opinion I have expressed represent my true and complete professional opinion.
- 3.2 I confirm that my rebuttal evidence includes all facts that I regard as being relevant to the opinions that I have expressed and that attention is drawn to any matter which would affect the validity of those opinions
- 3.3 I confirm that my duty to the Inquiry as an expert witness overrides any duty to those instructing or paying me, and I have understood this duty and complied with it in giving my evidence impartially and objectively, and I will continue to comply with that duty as required.
- 3.4 I confirm that, in preparing this rebuttal evidence, I have assumed that same duty that would apply to me when giving my expert opinion in a court of law under oath or affirmation. I confirm that this duty overrides any duty to those instructing or pay me, and I have understood this duty and complied with it in giving my evidence impartially and objectively, and I will continue to comply with that duty as required.
- 3.5 I confirm that I have no conflicts of interest of any kind other than those already disclosed in this rebuttal evidence.

JOHN PATRICK DISLEY

9 FEBRUARY 2024